STATE TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION STATE OF MONTANA

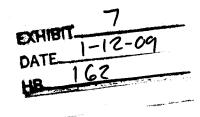
P.O. Box 200505 Helena, MT 59620



TELEPHONE: 406-841-2775 FAX: 406-841-2731

January 9, 2009

The Honorable Art Noonan
Chairman
Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena MT 59620-1706



RE: House Bill 162 Removal of Coal Board Grant Limitation

Chairman Noonan and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission, please accept this letter of support for House Bill 162 effectively removing the 7% Coal Board grant limitations. It is our belief that this legislation will increase overall tribal participation in projects utilizing these funds.

Thank you for your consideration of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission's testimony.

Sincerely,

Shawn Real Bird

Chairman

State Tribal Economic Development Commission

awn Real Bird

SRB/hsg

CC: Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee State Tribal Economic Development Commission members Montana Department of Commerce Director Anthony J. Preite